

## **APPENDIX A COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The Kootenai County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Task Force established a citizen participation program at the beginning of the wildland urban interface fire mitigation planning process. The purpose of this program was to offer ample opportunities for citizens and businesses to make contributions throughout the planning process. Four specific methods were selected to carry out the program: a handout and comment sheet “You Too Can Help Prevent Wildfire Damage”; a series of eight workshops held throughout the county; an informal survey called “Welcome to Fire Country”; and two interactive displays, one conducted at the March Home and Garden Show at the Kootenai County Fairground and one conducted at the Silver Lake Mall. The data below represents the results of these activities.

### **“You Too Can Help Prevent Wildfire Damage” Handout**

The “You Too Can Help Prevent Wildfire Damage” is a handout which has wildland urban interface fire facts on one side and a comment section on the other. The comment handout was distributed throughout the county by Committee members and Fire Districts. People were asked to list their most important issues concerning wildfire management or write comments, draw or sketch anything else they wanted to say about wildfire in the wildland urban interface areas of Kootenai County.

The following statements were received from citizens, businesses and agencies that completed and returned the comment portion of the handout. Comments are recorded exactly as written thus they may contain spelling and grammatical errors. Please note one exception, negative references to specific individuals or businesses have been deleted to respect privacy.

- During building permit process include informational material concerning fire safety, vegetation, etc.
- 1. Proper address & mark driveways. 2. Downed trees. 3. Proper maps & road signs.
- My impression of much of the individual damage that occurs during wildfires is due to inaccessible residential structures. Wildfires are a natural occurrence in all wooded areas. The increased human activity greatly effects the rate of frequency & the amount of damage caused by wildfires. Greatly reduced & restricted development on the fringes of Kootenai Co specifically to reduce the need for heroic, life-saving efforts to limit the damage to human artifacts during a perfectly natural occurrence.

- Public education. College/school visits (software development.) Bldg contractor education.
- Set up fund @ county level to give homeowners one time “tax relief” (property) for taking measurable actions on property.
- Increased public awareness as to the need to maintain property, ie proper clearance of brush and trees. And as a last resort, some sort of annual requirement to maintain property - with a warning system if there is non-compliance. (And at the very last - contractor hiring to complete the prevention process). Its important to make us aware of lack of maintenance not only effects the individual property exposure to wildfire but everyone else as well. Although we resist more government control, this is an issue that truly impacts the community as a whole. Prevention should be the first & best step to stopping wildfires.
- Increase the foundation height for houses and out buildings and deck supports. Talk with insurance agency's to participate in programs with awards and if they have funds to sponsor the programs or prizes.
- Do the homeowners insurance companies offer any incentive (\$) for fire mitigation and home preparation? This would possibly motivate some action.
- I work for and represent Williams Gas Pipeline. We own and operate high pressure natural gas pipelines that cross the state of Idaho. We are always concerned about our facilities during fires and coordinate with local Emergency Response Agencies. One of our largest concerns is heavy equipment working above and around our pipelines. Our right of ways make natural fire breaks and good access routes. So we focus on educating the public and local emergency crews. If you can assist me in identifying the appropriate platform for input into your needs for this process it would be greatly appreciated.
- Encourage water districts to place water available (fire hydrants or stand pipes) at intervals along their pipelines.
- Lower insurance rates ? if address are correctly posted (with new addresses) and driveways are wide enough for emergency vehicles. (Get insurance companies involved for incentives.) Could Boy Scouts, etc. be used in community service projects such as clean up for elderly or disable persons? There are people who have to do court ordered community service could they be used in parks and such for clean up?
- I live in a small development (20 lots, .75 acres avg.). Our main problem with wildland interface is absentee owners. There are 8 homes in the area and the rest of the lots are vacant and overgrown. The best way to get the vacant lots

in better shape would be some sort of \$ incentive. This is probably an expensive approach and may be financially unfeasible. Another thing that may be effective is a fire danger survey of some sort if landowners got a report on the fire-worthiness of their lot, that might motivate them to do some clean-up.

- As station captain for Rockford Bay in the Worley Fire District I am very familiar with wildfire management issues for our area. The greatest need for wildfire management is educating and even providing homeowners with information on how to protect their property. This is ideas clearing, green zones, limbing trees etc. This is especially true for the summer residents. Many of these folks have homes that are not defensible in a major incident. We have offered meeting at the grange to help educate homeowners. Unfortunately, the only attendees were member of the Fire District. If education doesn't work perhaps offering to do the work for the homeowners would.
- 1. All public education & information materials should emphasize individual citizen responsibility. The "Government" does not always take care of you - they may assist, but it is ultimately an individuals responsibility to care for themselves & their property. 2. Create a checklist for homeowners/landowners etc. that would assist them in identifying hazards and how they could address identified problems & issues. Action step suggestions. 3. Continue to interact with agencies & organizations that are involved in similar programs to minimize duplicate efforts - build on what is already there. 4. Emphasize prevention not reaction - if you have to react - the event has already happened. 5. Educate with examples of past fires. 6. Participation in these types of efforts should emphasize that it is "the right thing to do". 7. List of suggested resources - both for prevention & then response - if something does happen.
- Addressing - many fire depts have programs. Fuel treatment along roads. Fire safe building materials - educating builders. Fire danger signs for rural neighborhoods. Fire safe landscaping information for natural settings.
- We need to get Insurance Companies to help those people get involved in doing what is needed to protect there properties. We have people moving from the cities into the rural areas and the need to receive an education in the responsibilities involved with owning a wood lot. They need to know that even though they no longer have a sidewalk that needs to be shoveled they now have land that they need to clean to help themselves and there neighbor.
- I live on Cda. lake, so my main concerns are that a fire will start then spread to several homes & timber. There is a lack of green space around many of the lake homes and many have a lot of brush along with the trees. Unfortunately

it sometimes takes a fire to wake a lot of us up to the fact that there are measures we can take to reduce our risk to a fire. Education is necessary to teach the people before something happens. Worley Fire Dist. has put on several programs on Fire Prevention in the Wildland Urban Interface. This helps but the attendance is not what it should be at these programs. Another concern of mine is fire works, especially around the 4th of July. Bottle rockets & other air borne fireworks are shot off by children who are unsupervised, also by some adults who could use some supervision. I am afraid that some day this will set off a huge fire that could change the views as well as burn houses and also endanger the lives of the property owners and fire fighters.

- Zoning ordinance requiring removal of weeds, trash, and any combustible material within 30' of any residence, accessory building, structures or property lines.
- 1. Where the timber companies log they leave too much wastage on the ground to dry out which fuels the fires. 2. I have seen slash piles burning in high wind weather. 3. Can't you hire or deputize some of the locals who love to ride in the mountain to patrol for illegal camp fires etc. and be able to issue tickets - this would also spot meth labs. 4. I have seen good logs in slash piles, why couldn't these logs be piled by the road so people looking for fireweed can get to them or bring i.e. inmates who have been assigned community service or juveniles to cut this wood up to give to the economically challenged to use for heat in the winter. 5. If the ground floor was cleaned up & old dry snags cleaned out this would help with the control. 6. eliminate the large amount of clear cutting make the timber companies log more thoughtfully - clear cutting leaves too much wastage on ground which acts like kindling.
- Fireworks. Ban Fires in the woods. Clearing of brush from railroad tracks. Cigarettes & cigars.
- I don't begin to see the answers to your dilemma. Fire truly caused by nature can't be stopped, and so-called thinning the trees just leaves an abundance of drying branches and small cut trees to fuel future fires more so than green trees left in place. Educating the public doesn't seem to be the answer for those among us who are careless or uncaring can see the results of TV of fires burning, lives possible lost and the devastation left behind. Too many of the people today are too selfish to change their habits if it's not their own personal property involved.
- I find it a little strange that this lightening that causes 70% of the forest fires in National Forests appears more times than not to hit the inaccessible areas with the big trees. If I really believed this I would consider myself a follower and

not a self-thinker. How convenient for these private logging companies out there that us taxpayers build them roads in for their sole profit to log our fallen trees. Is this akin to the ice storm where you quickly grab all the good trees you can, leaving behind a mess of fallen trees and slash piles as future fuel? Maybe if the laws were changed to leave the forest as is after a fire the tax payers would end up with more money, a larger area of good trees standing, as well as no additional roads where trespassers could build threatening camp fires during dry seasons, since once the loggers have finished their demolition there is no chain across a road that will keep all people out. Why bother logging once the fire is out? There is more damage and cost to the taxpayer that doesn't benefit - only a private company or two, probably a few legislatures, and/or maybe a few Forest Service secret payoffs. After all, a perfect example is what has been done to forest lands around the lake and as a taxpayer I don't remember voting they should do away with my forest land at a cost to me for every tree cut. How stupid of me that I thought National Forests were set aside for the people to enjoy and didn't know I only got to enjoy them until the trees got big enough for the fires and greed to take over.

- In seems to be a coincidence, but more forest fires at a time when big trees are getting scarcer and the logging companies are beginning to see the future handwriting on the wall? Ever watch them racing back and forth with their loads on 97 or I-90? They can't get those trees quick enough. Sure you have kooks out there, and it's a fact lightning strikes, but why the appearance of so much more in national forests than private land forests?
- 1. Need to provide a cadre of people to help the public understand all the options they have to treat fuels on their property. (ie can reduce fuels but still have a variety of wildlife) 2. Provide plans for long term maintenance of fuels reduction programs. 3. Develop fire plans, escape routes, water sources, inform people of weeks and how fire fighters will be able to respond and needed changes to better response. 4. Provide \$ to provide water sources ie farm ponds. Coordinate with Soil Conservation Service on this. 5. maintain option for local burning and fuel treatment during wet periods. 6. Provide examples so people can see what a safer area like.
- Part of your answer might be pressure to do away with legislative stall (and payola?) and quick action regarding current and future National Forest logging practices, to be supervised by a non-political board, and to include strict penalties for payoffs for all this indiscriminate logging going on both before and after fires, to include a clause banning their jackpot logging in burned areas. These forests will grow back without the necessity of careless and disruptive abuse to the rest of the surrounding trees. this needs to be done prior to total National Forest depletion by the kooks, the careless, and mostly the greedy logging companies and out "honest" elected officials. After all, among other things we all know or should have observed, besides the

financial benefits of a very few those most benefiting by our stupidity in logging are foreign countries who get the better wood, while the junk stays here.

- At the rate of greed these loggers and forest service personnel are depleting our resources, not only will my grandchildren have to say “What is a forest?” and to look in a book to see one, but you won’t have to worry about fires in the forests because THERE AIN’T GOING TO BE NONE.
- While dry season dictates a ban on campfires in all but designated areas, and even last summer completely banned for a period of time, why were chain saws and logging equipment operating during these times, whether it was on public or private land? Do they hold so much power their sparks couldn’t start a fire?
- You have to start at the top and work down, showing good examples along the way. So why plan as a select few continue to do as they please why not everybody else? You might as well close up shop, go home and save us taxpayers of the cost of your grant money. No matter how hard you plan and how good your ideas and intentions, the big and powerful dance to their own tune.
- The vast majority of wildfires are caused by human activity. One need only to take a walk in the woods anytime of the year and encounter people logging in and out of protected areas, hunting and fishing partys with camp fire blazing, off road vehicles roaring up and down restricted trails and roads to clearly see what contributes to and causes most of the fires that devastate our wildland and protected areas.
- The best immediate solution to this problem would be to levy heavy and stiff fines and penalties for all those who violate the rules by conducting illegal activities in restricted and protected areas and even heavier fines and penalties for those who cause damage to these same areas. This would bring in revenue to hire more personnel to police and manage these wildlife areas and send a strong message that our wildlands and protected areas are not to be violated and harmed by illegal and destructive activities.
- Man causes many of the forest fires: camp fires not watched, cigarette butts flicked into dry brush, sparks from machinery and motorcycles. Solution: post signs, stiffer sentences and fines, hiring more people to police area.
- Management of one’s own home should be left to the individual - it is their responsibility! (re: chimneys). Perhaps charging certain fees for the need for fire extinguishing services for negligence i.e. burns, chimney, campfires/bar fires. Cost per acre per forest Svc lands is an invalid figure in determining

wildfire management. People involved w/process get paid when fires burn. They have an added incentive to allow “extra” burning to occur. I’ve heard stories to support my belief that this occurs. Fire fighting equipment is a real plus as long as funds are also available to utilize/run equipment. I do not support any tax increases for these activities. Smart people cannot stop stupid people from doing stupid things, but they can be prepared to respond to some things.

- Absolutely oppose any gov’t requirements on new construction or maintaining chimneys, there are already too many over-priced, gov’t imposed “solutions” that treat people like little kids to be “protected”. Ban all slash burns in springtime. Fire can go into ground through roots and resurface during hot dry season creating a major burn. Slash should be burned in fall/early winter only. No logging or poor logging creates a lot of forest debris w/beetle kill, blow-downs, slash and underbrush creating a bigger fire danger. Proper forest management is needed. Creating fire brakes around certain areas of private property/properties to prevent spread of fire or negative impact from poorly managed neighboring properties.
- The County should be divided into geographic sectors. Risk evaluations should be conducted in each sector and the high risk areas need to be identified. (Private and public land should be included) Risk factors: If fire what are possible losses/damage. What equipment and other resources are needed to mitigate the risk if fire occurs? Immediate Response. Secondary Response Needs. What obstacles or hazardous exist within each risk area? Access - Roads - Winter access - Water Supplies - Natural Obstacles, etc. After risk areas are identified pre-planning is a must to address problems. What equipment and resources are currently available? Where should the equipment and resources be housed for best responses. What are additional equipment and resource needs? Ideal. Minimum. How to achieve at least minimum standards. (Grants - Taxes - etc.) Timelines to resolve problems and who is responsible. Public contact in high risk areas with public officials and one on one with private owners. (Not just pamphlets and flyers) The program should address what is needed and how to achieve it and where can assistance be obtained. (It be improved access - development of water supplies - brush clearing - etc.) Stricter controls on big slash burns and a more watchful eye on burn permits for small normal burns.
- Clean up flammable debris in woods. Increase number of pumping stations. Get rid of trees by power lines.
- My major concern is the substantial amount of open woodland that is in very inaccessible terrain making firefighting difficult or impossible. This directly affects me as the land behind my home falls into this category. If there was a woodland fire, it would be difficult to fight because there are no roads and the

terrain makes off road driving impossible. It appears to me that the only viable way to fight this type of fire is through air tankers. This also has the advantage of being able to stop these fires before they get out of control. I don't know what the availability of this type of aircraft is, but it would be worth looking into on a contractual basis with a private concern that has this type of aircraft for other purposes or some kind of multi-jurisdictional purchase or contract, as this is obviously a very large capital outlay and significant upkeep expense.

- Problem 1: Heavy fuel loads in the woods due to poor logging practices and ice storm damage. Solution: Have landowners, loggers or possible grant personnel clean up the woods on their properties starting closest to structures and working away. South facing (drier) hillsides would be the priority.
- Problem 2: Power lines through wooded properties where easement aren't maintained. Solution: Power companies are responsible to maintain their easement to prevent trees and limbs from falling on wires, bringing them down then starting fires (Fire Storm 1990).
- Problem 3: Landowners burning slash on dry and/or windy days. Solution: Education, including information on permits. Fines for firefighting resources needed to extinguish someone's foolishness.
- Problem 4: lack of firefighters in the area late in the summer due to many reasons. Solution: Hire more firefighters locally. During the off-fire season, they could be used to help solve Problem 1 or prevention activities.
- Problem 5: Poor wildland road access for firefighting apparatus. Solution: Fire districts should require better roads to structures and key areas and have access to them.
- Problem 6: Lack of water supply in the upper reaches of Mica-Kidd Island area. Solution: Incentives for landowners to build usable ponds, tanks or reservoirs to supply water for fire protection. More hydrants in subdivisions.
- Problem 7: Mica-Kidd Island Fire District has old fire apparatus. Solution: Replacements are being worked on, but this is a slow process. Grant money is available and would be most helpful.
- Perhaps assistance could be provided for senior citizens to remove fallen trees and clean forest debris around their homes.
- It is my opinion as a homeowner & forest property owner in a wildland urban interface (probably borders USDA-Forest Service) that the best way to work with property/homeowners is through a combination of education and incentives.
- Education
- Experts should work closely with interested individual homeowners to develop site specific plans. I envision this process as similar to the development of a forestry management plan. In fact, the fire management plan should be integrated with forestry management & other plans that have



been developed for the property. When the Fire Management Plan is complete the homeowner should receive a written plan with recommendations specific to the property. The homeowner receives an education by participating with the expert in the development of the plan and has the written plan to review at a later time.

- Incentives
- The development of a fire management plan with the homeowner is in itself an incentive. If additional dollars are available the implementing agency can offer additional incentives to the homeowners to implement the plans, portions of them or other fire mitigation measures. Incentives include cost sharing, payments for satisfactorily implementing plan, continued involvement of experts, and/or other mechanisms to help landowners defray the costs associated with implementing fire mitigation measures.
- Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- Contract Mont./Bitterroot local area police & fire depts. & their reaction to the fires. -What could be done differently? -What was done right? -What plans should already to in place?
- More ideas from homeowners.
- Local emergency shelters, cots, basic food. -Public know where shelter is. KMC ready - burns, shock, respiratory problems. trauma teams?
- Rural citizens -escape access - ph 3's - maps for F.D. locating homes? -fire breaks -ground fuels clean ups.
- Known areas for Fire Crew base camps.
- Flyers mailed to rural citizens w/info in case of a fire - what to do, where to go & of course prevention.
- I live in rural Kootenai County in a wooded area. I would like to make my 8 acres reasonably Firesafe. Education would be of formost interest to me. Ideally, an on-site assessments would be nice to help understand what steps we could take to make the property more firesafe. Videos, handout county fair booths, etc. would all be helpful but an on-site evaluation either free or at-cost would be most useful. A list of Agencies or private contractors that were approved by some "Fire Authority" would also be helpful.
- I think homeowners want to do the "right " thing when it comes to wild fires. Often, we are just not educated to accomplish that.
- Another possible education issue might be the establishment of gravity feed, non-potable water storage for fire fighting rural fires.
- Down fall from clearing 92-93 and current snowfall damage. Standing dead snags (beetle & root damaged) Need mobil water tender. Generator for Pump House (In case electricity is turned off or goes off)
- This form asks me what I can do to help. As an Independent Logging contractor I feel I am a minimal issue as to cause of fire. I am frequently

called upon to help if a fire occurs, however. I feel the funding and granting could be best directed toward empowering and training my employees to assist whenever a crisis occurs.

- The minimum that should be afforded the timber producers would be equipment (checked out from the DOL at the beginning of the fire season) to actually equip the people who most likely are already in the field. Examples of such equipment might be backpack pump extinguishers, minimal first aid (for use @ events only) and pulaski and or Mcl ? systems. The equipment would be marked as property of the DOL and listed as to whomever has it. So equipped and in the field I feel these timber workers might help out quite a bit. Additionally if actually called to a crisis they might form part of a core of early response.
- I have a wonderful Keep Idaho Green song that I wrote. Mae Connor, 1966 Blanchard Elk Rd, Blanchard, Id 83807.
- Timber Contractor & owner. To do: Grant money to private landowners who must use it for mitigation of fuels presently in overabundance. Money available by application through Soil Conservation, Grange or via DOL/BLM. Any amounts would help. It is evident that much of the fire issue will exist on non-timbered ground, yet these are vector sites for fire to move from timber to timber. Somehow the grant \$ could be early enough to help yet earmarked to be used either way.
- I feel any funding, grants or money available to address fire in Rural areas of Kootenai County should be used to off set the expense of dealing with the long-lasting impact of Ice Storms several years ago. Some areas are clearly in need of cleaning or they will be the hardest to deal with if fire occurs. Landowners can't afford cleanup expenses, often and only proactive help for them will make a difference. Area power companies can advise the DOL and land owner of parcels in especially dangerous condition. A group could regulate the money the cleanup would justify. Thanks.

### **Community Sub-Area Problem Workshops**

The purpose of the first set of community workshops was to provide an opportunity for citizens to identify wildland urban interface fire problems and suggest solutions to those problems. The data below is recorded as presented by people attending the workshops and represents their viewpoints on problems and solutions. Workshops were held from 7 to 9 pm at the following four locations:

Tuesday, February 5  
Southwest Area  
Coeur d'Alene Casino

Wednesday, February 6  
Northwest Area  
Lakeland High School

Tuesday, February 12  
Southeast Area  
East Side Fire Station

Wednesday, February 13  
North East Area  
Northern Lakes Fire Station

### Wildland Urban Interface Fire Problems

#### Southwest Area

- Brush growing next to homes.
- Standing dead trees.
- Absentee landowners; brush piles up, is not clean up and don't seem to care.
- Left overs from Ice Storm.
- Road access for fire trucks.
- Car accidents can lead to wildfire.
- May have impact of Black Rock Development (developer is building a Fire Station).
- Maintenance on older small homes for sale that are not selling.
- 2nd home folks expect more resources then are available - don't want responsibility for solving problems.
- Weed problems, especially thistle, due to lack of maintenance of areas cleaned up.

#### Northwest Area

- Lack of a system to know which homes have defensible space (reverse and make action step, can be on GIS system, registered house)
- Insurance companies do not provide incentive for defensible space and best management construction practices.
- No sense of urgency from home owners.
- Regulations on outside fires too loose.
- Research into "outside" opinions, e.g. outside information "lesson learned", don't be repetitious doing same things.
- Bigger pool of management teams available ASAP for Type 3 incidents.
- Need for more local folks to be trained.
- Need more volunteers.
- Barriers by agencies: contractors are not allowed to participation in training.
- All positions, EOC (Emergency Operations Center), lacking a full staff of qualified people.
- People are not taking a "pro-active" approach to protecting their homes.
- Communications for emergency services, not all on same network including Fire districts, difficult to communicate initially.
- Lack of Public Information Officers (POI's) in area, need trained PIO's during incident.

## Southeast Area

- Majority of folks say gov't (Fed) not taking care of problems on public land; roads, clean up.
- Use of roads, especially at hunting season.
- Summer folks not as concerned as year folks.
- No communication between fire personnel and citizens.
- Getting water to the fire, accessibility to the lake.
- Checker board ownership patterns.
- People from out of state don't know if they are in Fire District.
- Individual fire plans for property owners.
- Getting to folks/ how to communicate during wildfire incident.
- Address grass and brush land fires.
- Slash burning on public lands? What is the right time to burn.

## Northeast Area

- Interagency communication improvements.
- Often people don't notice problems.
- Long term consideration, do it now, people will forget.
- Interagency cooperation, training/field practice, how often is it done.
- Public hasn't been utilized as much as anticipated - student project.
- Folks think they are protected but really aren't.
- Example, Florida people understand 'proscribed fires' as opposed to this area.
- Focus on grass burning, people are so anti smoke complicated other burning issues.
- Influx of people.
- Areas without water.
- Fuel loading, some neighborhood clean up some don't.
- View lots at top of slope.
- Accessing some areas, narrow drives 1 way in 1 way out.
- Some folks don't want to be bothered.

## Wildland Urban Interface Fire Solutions

### Southwest Area

- Responsibility for carrying out the Fire Mitigation Plan is done by Fire Districts.
- Require burn permits at all times.
- Call in when burning.
- Overseer with ongoing responsibility for the plan.
- Property owners using grant programs should have a choice of who does the work, although property owner has final responsibility.
- Fire Districts have oversight of grant projects for homeowner clean-up.

- Distribution of grant \$'s related to the density of development.

#### Northwest Area

- Visual tools for public, organizational charts to show how emergency operations get done.
- Visual aids in public education efforts.
- Pre scripted messages for PIO's.
- Identifying communities for "lessons learned" to help in Kootenai County.
- 2 PIO's in each Fire District.
- Program to encourage more volunteer firefighters for local districts.
- More local personnel trained for type 3 positions.
- Minimum 3 deep for all EOC (emergency Operations Center) positions.
- All emergency providers and dispatch centers be able to communicate (set aside channel).
- Public information at time of incident, Emergency Alert System and "joint information center" trained PIO's so field people can direct to PIO's.
- Evacuation routes/plans: need to think of alternatives, better evacuation map in both telephone books, educate kids about map.
- Registration system GIS of property owner with defensible space w/reward system e.g. driveway sign recognizing fire safe homes certified.
- Information about companies who can fire safe homes, option a Master List of trained contractors.
- Enforcement regulations to keep fuel management ongoing.
- Incentives for property owners: businesses give discount during Fire Week, tax break.

#### Southeast Area

- Model program with research component for survivability of homes for individual home owners involving installation of an outside switch for a generator at the home and building small mobile kits (home protection system in a box) w/generators, hoses and sprinklers which can be dropped off at homes during a fire or stored by homeowners.
- More emphasis for individual home owners about realities of "saving your home".
- Program teaching people to be responsible for own fire protection.
- Support Fire Co-op in schools, also helps to educate parents.
- Escape route system with distinctive signs.
- Programs to involve people in fire protection.
- Form partnerships with insurance companies to convey incentives to homeowners.
- Develop a comprehensive media plan for public information.
- Add mitigation projects to science curriculums in schools and 4-H programs.

- Interactive “net site” for questions, comments, information, sign-up for home evaluation, volunteer activities.
- Plans that “call in a crew” at the right time.
- Interagency radio link for effective communications.
- Scenic fire breaks.
- Identify “road blocks” federal agencies encounter in treating slash fuels and fuels in general.

#### North East

- Consistency w/all agencies, same plan same explanations.
- NRCS finding and developing water supplies i.e. pond, wetland dual purpose for water supplies.
- Power source for well only. (water source)
- New more rural subdivisions re water source.
- More teeth in code, legislation for looking at helping self.
- NIBC group as an educational outlet for developers.
- Look at fire plans for neighborhoods.
- Incentives for home owners i.e. “tax break”, “insurance break” fire resistant construction materials.
- Small acreage's ongoing land management plan.
- Keep power lines corridors open.
- Coordinate with utilities for underground lines for new subdivisions and replacements.
- Creating incentives for people to use fire resistant materials.
- Provide a cadre of people beside fire fighters to show people they can treat fuels and still have amenities. (educate public)
- Public information - attend homeowners associations.
- Follow-up on student projects/evaluation of activities.
- Fuels Reduction fire week “this is the week to do it” ie haul off, chips need to work w/agencies

#### Community Sub-Areas Action Steps Workshops

The purpose of the 2nd set of workshops was to provide an opportunity for citizens to identify their priorities for actions for wildland urban interface fire mitigation. At each workshop people were asked to select the 7 action steps most important to them from a list of preliminary actions developed by the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan Committee. Additional comment data is recorded as presented by workshop attendees. Workshops were held from 7 to 9 pm at the following four locations. No attendance at the Northwest and Northeast Area Workshops except for 2 committee members at each.

Tuesday, March 12  
Southwest Area

Wednesday, March 13  
Northwest Area

Coeur d' Alene Casino	Lakeland High School
Tuesday, March 19	Wednesday, March 20
Southeast Area	North East Area
East Side Fire Station	Northern Lakes Fire Station

### Workshop Action Step Priorities

Priorities ranking from most important to least important:

- Ensure all land development ordinances and codes include:
  - requirements for adequate water supply,
  - two means of ingress and egress,
  - incentives for construction with fire resistant materials,
  - additional fire protection measures for large residences, and
  - pertinent sections of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.
- Develop a county wide public/private road system with a minimum standard of 20' maintained roadway width with clearly posted road names and individual addresses signs.
- Explore the potential for converting slash and deadfall into firewood for senior citizens and handicapped or low income residents and use good wood for lumber for Habitat for Humanity.
- Encourage property owners to use grant programs to protect and/or create wetlands and ponds which can serve a dual purpose as water supplies.
- Work with local educators to establish a fire education component in the public schools curriculum.
- Require utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions and when replacing older lines.
- Secure funding for a model program to research use of an emergency generator connected to home electric and pump systems.
- Sponsor an annual clean-up, fuels reduction week with incentives for property owners such as business related discounts and free pickup of waste materials.
- Enforce slash clearing agreements on public lands.
- Organize a multi agency strike team for pre order response.

- Assist efforts of fire districts to coordinate a minimum standard for wildland urban interface training, have 2 trained Public Information Officers, and increase the number of Type III qualified personnel.
- Develop an interagency agreement to assure consistency between information and education programs for homeowners to avoid people getting 'different stories'.
- Develop a brochure to be included in tax bills reminding homeowners in the wildland urban interface about fire mitigation.



### Additional Comments

- Ask insurance people to look at a property that is not fire safe and one that has been cleaned and is fire safe to estimate difference in fire rating, will show reduction in cost.
- Require green zones as part of building (process) regulations.

### **Welcome to Fire Country Booth at Kootenai County Home and Garden Show**

Over 300 people stopped by the Welcome to Fire Country Booth sponsored by Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan Committee at the Kootenai County Home and Garden Show, March 15, 16 and 17. Committee members and the consultant team staffed the booth. Featured was a display, video, information for homeowners, and a checklist form, “Welcome to Fire Country” with 32 possible actions to mitigate wildland urban interface fires. People were asked to look over the checklist and select the 10 actions they felt were the most important. A total of 263 checklists were completed. Below is a ranking of the actions showing citizen’s priorities, most important to least important.

- Require utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions and when replacing older lines.
- Sponsor an annual clean-up, fuels reduction week with incentives for property owners such as business related discounts and free pick-up of waste materials.
- Explore the potential of converting slash and deadfall into firewood for senior citizens, and handicapped or low income residents and use good wood for lumber for Habitat for Humanity.
- Organize a community services project to assist elderly and handicapped homeowners reduce fuel loads on their property.
- Ensure that the county controls knapweed infestations.
- Enforce slash clearing agreements on public lands.
- Encourage families to designate a meeting place during and after fire evacuation.
- Work with local educators to establish a fire education component in the public school curriculum

- Establish a program for home owners offering an assessment of the fire safe worthiness of their property and an incentive system to use fire safe building materials and reduce fuel loads on their property.
- Support the efforts of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-op and other agencies at County Fair and Safety Day at the Silver Lake Mall.
- Enforce land development and building regulations related to wildland urban interface fire prevention.
- Ensure all land development ordinances and codes include:
  - requirements for adequate water supply,
  - two means of ingress and egress,
  - incentives for construction with fire resistant materials,
  - additional fire protection measures for large residences, and
  - pertinent sections of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.
- Inform public about noxious weed programs.
- Call for water districts to provide emergency access to water supply via dry hydrants along service delivery lines.
- Require burning permits at all times of the year.
- Institute a program for creating and maintaining neighborhood fire prevention plans in wildland urban interface areas.
- Develop a county wide public/private road system with a minimum standard of 20' maintained roadway with clearly posted names and individual addresses signs.
- Produce, on an ongoing basis, up-to-date hard copy and electronic county maps with evacuation routes, emergency shelters, trauma units, road names, and current addresses.
- Keep current and distribute evacuation plans with safety zones and information which encourages homeowners to evacuate in a timely manner.
- Purchase, install and maintain Smokey Bear Signs (high, moderate, low fire conditions) in wildland urban interface neighborhoods.
- Organize an educational program for real estate professionals, insurance providers, and building contractors on wildland urban interface fire risks and hazards to assist buyers and sellers be better informed.

- Encourage property owners to protect and/or create wetlands and ponds which can serve a dual purpose as water supplies.
- Publish an annual list of local, trained certified contractors who build fire safe structures and/or create survivable space.
- Develop a brochure to be included in tax bills reminding homeowners in the wildland urban interface about fire mitigation.
- Along with insurance companies and realtors publish a ‘Welcome to Fire Country’ pamphlet to distribute with building permit applications and residential sales agreements for non local new home owners.
- Develop an interactive internet site with a wildland urban interface fire theme for questions, comments, sign-up for home evaluations, volunteer opportunities, and targeted information for recreational home owners.
- Offer individual home owners a fuel treatment plan which provides for:
  - large diameter material, over 12” set aside and sliced into 3/4” disks,
  - small straight sticks, i.e. 2/3” diameter in lengths of 4/8’, set aside
  - anything suitable for firewood cut to length and piled
 with any material not in these categories disposed of in the standard approved manner.
- Identify “road blocks” federal agencies encounter in treating slash fuels and fuels in general.
- Inform public that land under trees can be used for crops and other planting.
- Secure funding for a model program to research use of an emergency generator connected to home electric and pump systems.
- Build and maintain a demonstration trailer with a good/bad example of residential building materials and survivable space.
- Partner with the North Idaho Building Contractors Association and other local land development professionals to build a model residential development demonstrating best management practices for fire safety.

### **Welcome to Fire Country Display at Silver Lake Mall**

An interactive display featuring story boards with 27 possible actions to mitigate wildland urban interface fires, a display, information for homeowners and stickers and candy for children was held from 10 am to 5 pm on April 26th at the Silver Lake Mall.

People were invited to put a 'sticky dot' on the five actions on the story boards they considered to be most important. Approximately 105 people participated in this activity. The following list of represents a ranking of most to least number of sticky dots' placed next to the actions by participants.

- Explore the potential of converting slash and deadfall into firewood for senior citizens, and handicapped and low income residents and use good wood for lumber for habitat for Humanity.
- Ensure all land development ordinances and codes include:
  - requirements for adequate water supply,
  - two means of ingress and egress,
  - incentives for construction with fire resistant materials,
  - additional fire protection measures for large residences, and
  - pertinent sections of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.
- Sponsor an annual clean-up/fuels reduction week with incentives for property owners such as business related discounts and free pickup of waste materials.
- Require utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions and when replacing older lines.
- Enforce slash clearing agreements on public lands.
- Support the efforts of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-op and other agencies at County Fair and Safety Day at the Silver Lake Mall.
- Establish a program for home owners offering an assessment of the fire safe worthiness of their property and an incentive system to use fire safe building materials to reduce fuel loads on their property.
- Work with local educators to establish a fire education component in the public school curriculum.
- Purchase, install and maintain Smokey Bear Signs (high, moderate, low fire conditions) in wildland urban interface neighborhoods.
- Support the efforts of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-op and other agencies at County Fair and Safety Day at the Silver Lake Mall.
- Organize a community services project to assist elderly and handicapped homeowners reduce fuel loads on their property.

- Produce, on an ongoing basis, up-to-date hard copy and electronic county maps with evacuation routes, emergency shelters, trauma units, road names, and current addresses.
- Enforce land development and building regulations related to wildland urban interface fire prevention.
- Encourage property owners to protect and/or create wetlands and ponds which can serve a dual purpose as water supplies.
- Require burning permits at all times of the year.
- Publish an annual list of local, trained certified contractors who build fire safe structures and/or create survivable space.
- Develop an interactive internet site with a wildland urban interface fire theme for questions, comments, sign-up for home evaluations, volunteer opportunities, and targeted information for recreational home owners.
- Call for water districts to provide emergency access to water supply via dry hydrants along service delivery lines.
- Along with insurance companies and realtors publish a 'Welcome to Fire Country' pamphlet to distribute with building permit applications and residential sales agreements for non local new home owners.
- Develop a county wide public/private road system with a minimum standard of 20' maintained roadway with clearly posted names and individual addresses signs.
- Keep current and distribute evacuation plans with safety zones and information which encourages homeowners to evacuate in a timely manner.
- Encourage families to designate a meeting place during and after fire evacuation.
- Inform public that land under trees can be used for corps and other plantings.
- Institute a program for creating and maintaining neighborhood fire prevention plans in wildland urban interface areas.
- Offer individual home owners a fuel treatment plan which provides for:
  - large diameter material, over 12" set aside and sliced into 3/4" disks,
  - small straight sticks, i.e. 2/3" diameter in lengths of 4/8', set aside
  - anything suitable for firewood cut to length and piled

with any material not in these categories disposed of in the standard approved manner.

- Inform public about noxious weed programs.
- Develop a brochure to be included in tax bills reminding homeowners in the wildland urban interface about fire mitigation.

### **Combined Total of Citizen Ranking of Fire Mitigation Actions**

Below is the total ranking, most important to least important, of actions selected by Kootenai County citizens at area workshops, Home and Garden Show and Silver Lake Mall display. This ranking represents the views of approximately 400 citizens.

- Explore the potential of converting slash and deadfall into firewood for senior citizens and handicapped or low income residents and use good wood for lumber for Habitat for Humanity.
- Require utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions and when replacing older lines.
- Sponsor an annual clean-up, fuels reduction week with incentives for property owners such as business related discounts and free pickup of waste materials.
- Organize a community services project to assist elderly and handicapped homeowners reduce fuel loads on their property.
- Enforce slash agreements on public lands.
- Ensure all land development ordinances and codes include:
  - requirements for adequate water supply,
  - two means of ingress and egress,
  - incentives for construction with fire resistant materials,
  - additional fire protection measures for large structures
  - pertinent sections of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.
- Establish a program for home owners offering an assessment of the fire safe worthiness of their property and an incentive system to use fire safe building materials and reduce fuel loads on their property.
- Work with local educators to establish a fire education component in the public schools curriculum.

- Support the efforts of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-op and other agencies at the County Fair and Safety Day at Silver Lake Mall.
- Enforce land development and building regulations related to wildland urban interface fire prevention.
- Encourage families to designate a meeting place during and after fire evacuation.
- Ensure that the county controls knapweed infestations.
- Require burning permits at all times of the year.
- Inform public about noxious weed programs.
- Call for water districts to provide emergency access to water supply via hydrants along service delivery lines.
- Institute a program for creating and maintaining neighborhood fire prevention plans in wildland urban interface areas.
- Produce, on an ongoing basis, up-to-date hard copy and electronic county maps with evacuation routes, emergency shelters, trauma units, road names and current old addresses.
- Develop a county wide public/private road system with a minimum standard of 20' maintained roadway with clearly posted road names and individual addresses signs.
- Keep current and distribute evacuation plans with safety zones and information which encourages homeowners to evacuate in a timely manner.
- Encourage property owners to use grant programs to protect and/or create wetlands and ponds which can serve a dual purpose as water supplies.
- Publish an annual list of local, trained certified contractors who build fire safe structures and/or create survivable space.
- Develop a brochure to be included in tax bills reminding homeowners in the wildland urban interface about fire mitigation.
- Organize an educational program for real estate professionals, insurance providers, and building contractors on wildland urban interface fire risks and hazards to assist buyers and sellers be better informed.

- Along with insurance companies and realtors publish a “Welcome to Fire Country” pamphlet to distribute with building permit applications and residential sales agreements for non local new home owners.
- Develop an interactive internet site with a wildland urban interface fire theme for questions, comments, sign-up for home evaluations, volunteer opportunities, and targeted information for recreational home owners.
- Offer individual home owners a fuel treatment plan which provides for:
  - large diameter material, over 12” set aside and sliced into 3/4” disks,
  - small straight sticks, i.e. 2/3” diameter in lengths of 4/8’, set aside,
  - anything suitable for firewood cut to length and piled,
 with any material not in these categories disposed of in the standard approved manner.
- Inform public that land under trees can be used for crops and other plantings.
- Identify “road blocks” federal agencies encounter in treating slash fuels and fuels in general.
- Purchase, install and maintain Smokey Bear Signs (high, moderate, low fire conditions) in wildland urban interface neighborhoods.
- Build and maintain a demonstration trailer with a good/bad example of residential building materials and survivable space.
- Secure funding for a model program to research use of an emergency generator connected to home electric and pump systems.
- Partner with the North Idaho Building Contractors Association and other local land development professionals to build a model residential development demonstrating best management practices for fire safety.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN AND COMMUNITY REVIEW AND COMMENT MEETING

No comments were received at community review and comment meeting.